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Identical letters dated 17 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 December 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 3 to 10 December 2000 they carried out 287 sorties, 135 of them from Saudi Arabia, 70 from Kuwait and 82 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 287 sorties in the period from 3 to 10 December 2000, 135 of them from Saudi Arabia, 70 from Kuwait and 82 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 82 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows.

(a) At 1110 hours on 3 December 2000, United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out four missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1115 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 4 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Baibo, Zakho and Tall Afar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1425 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1040 hours on 5 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Aqrah, Baibo and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1100 hours on 6 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil and Dohuk areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1145 hours on 7 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out eight missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Aqrah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1100 hours on 8 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's

airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Baibo and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 205 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1050 hours on 3 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Nukhayb, Ar'ar, Najaf, Hashimiyah, Diwaniyah and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0945 hours on 4 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Rahhaliyah, Afak, Najaf, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Nukhayb and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1150 hours on 6 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 23 missions, 13 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Qurnah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Amarah, Salman and Abyad areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0950 hours on 7 December 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Amarah, Shaykh Sa'd, Najaf, Rifa'i, Afak, Ashbajah, Qurnah, Diwaniyah and Ukhaydir areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1325 hours on 8 December 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 26 of

them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Hashimiyah, Hayy, Basrah, Tab'an, Najaf, Salman and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1220 hours on 9 December 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Hayy, Ukhaydir, Nu'maniyah, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0950 hours on 10 December 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Qurnah, Samawah, Shatrah, Ali al-Gharbi, Qal'at Salih, Afak, Amarah, Nukhayb, Hashimiyah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Hayy areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1115 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to intervene with the Governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq